

Executive Registry

Mr. Leonard R. Sussman
Executive Director
The American Council for Judaism
201 East 57th Street
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Sussman:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to thank you most kindly for your letter of 29 January concerning the Fourteenth Annual Conference of the American Council for Judaism in Houston.

In view of the nature of Mr. Dulles' position in the intelligence community, we regret that he is not able to furnish you with a statement. However, your thoughtfulness in asking him to send a message to your group is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,


Executive Officer

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O/DCI, /dd/6 Feb 58

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4 February 1958

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM: Asst. to the Director

1. This is a very delicate matter which involves a religious faith and a political movement, both things to be avoided by the Director. It is a controversial field since the letter in the next to the last paragraph states that the subject is one of the fundamentals underlying the Arab-Israeli crises in the Middle East, it would appear that a letter should be sent to Mr. Sussman acknowledging receipt of his letter of January 29, and regretting that the Director, because of the character of his position in the intelligence community, regrets he may not furnish a statement as requested.

STAT

STANLEY J. GOGAN
Assistant to the Director

OUR 15th ANNIVERSARY

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the American Council for Judaism

201 E. 57TH STREET • NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK • TELEPHONE PLAZA 9-6600

A national organization founded on the basic proposition that Judaism is a religion of universal values — not a nationality. We seek for Americans of Jewish faith their increasing civic, cultural and social integration into U. S. life. The Council's active program enables American Jews to meet obligations in public affairs, religion, and philanthropy in ways compatible with our beliefs rather than in the "Jewish" nationalist pattern of Zionism. The Council affirms that nationality and religion are separate and distinct; that no Jew or group of Jews can speak for all American Jews; that Israel is the "homeland" of its own citizens only, and not of all Jews.

January 29, 1958

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2134 E St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Members of the American Council for Judaism who will be meeting this year in Houston, Texas, for their Fourteenth Annual Conference, would be honored if you saw fit to mark the occasion with a message. Our Conference is scheduled for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 13, 14, 15 and 16.

As you may know, the American Council for Judaism is a national organization of Americans of the Jewish faith who reject, for themselves, the special national rights in and obligations to the state of Israel with which Zionism seeks to endow all Jews. In Houston, we shall be expanding our program of providing opportunity for expression in the fields of public affairs, religious education and philanthropy; in ways consistent with the universal values of Judaism as well as the democratic tradition of individual rights and a clear separation of church and state.

We believe our program takes on particular interest this year, because of a growing recognition on the part of thoughtful people everywhere, of the need for distinguishing between Judaism (a religious faith) and Zionism (a worldwide political movement). This need, first emphasized by us fifteen years ago, is increasingly referred to by informed observers as one of the fundamentals underlying the Arab-Israeli crisis in the Middle East, a crisis threatening the peace of the world.

I hope we shall have the great pleasure of some word from you as we assemble in Houston.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard R. Sussman
Leonard R. Sussman
Executive Director

LRS:jb

14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE • SHAMROCK HILTON • HOUSTON • MARCH 13, 14, 15, 16, 1958

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